

(Washington, D.C.) – Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) released the following statement tonight in response to President Obama's Address to Congress. Holt's guest for the speech was Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, President of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropy exclusively devoted to improving the health and health care of all Americans.

"The President has demonstrated again – as he did during the debate over the economic recovery bill – that we cannot have long-term economic growth without investing in science research.

"The President also showed that he recognizes that we can't fix our economy if we don't fix the health care system. As it is now, our health care system adds needless costs, inequality, and inefficiency that hobbles our economy. My guest tonight in the House gallery – Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, President of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – understands this as well as anyone, rightfully calling for comprehensive health reform to cover the uninsured, improve the quality of care, focus on prevention, and bring spending under control."

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